All these sightings have been interpreted as of escapees from captivity, though there has been no evidence for or against this view. The biggest flock observed so far constituted 20 birds feeding on sorghum crop (Parasharya and Patel 1985).

Recently near the Pariej reservoir on 13 September 1989, six pairs of the blackheaded munia were seen nesting on *Typha*. This is the first time the munia was seen breeding in Gujarat. The nests were barely visible from outside. We could locate the nesting site only because one bird was seen taking nest material. The nests, made of reeds and grasses in a ball form with an entrance on one side, were constructed halfway up the stem of the plants. All of them were built in a small patch of *Typha* covering an area of about 15 sq. m. Four nests had eggs in them, the number of eggs being 2, 3, 4 and 6. In one other nest, there were three hatchlings and one egg, whereas in still another one there were three 4-5 day old nestlings. Many more pairs might have been breeding there, but we did not have enough time to check the whole area. Soon thereafter, on two occasions in the same month, we observed two pairs, one each on *Typha* at Dethli (Kheda district) and in a sugar-cane field at Kodinar (Amreli district).

It is evident from the data presented that the munia has an almost state wide distribution in small numbers and very much limited to specific localities. Presently, we have information on its breeding only from Pariej, Kheda district, but it presumably breeds in other districts also.

With an increasing number of sightings of the blackheaded munia as well as the present report of a breeding colony, the bird seems to have well established wild populations in many parts of the state and must find a place in the checklist of birds of Gujarat as a resident bird.

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November 21, 1989 D.N. YADAV

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28. COMMON GARDEN LIZARD *CALOTES VERSICOLOR* PREYING ON BROOK'S GECKO *HEMIDACTYLUS BROOKI*

The food habits of the common garden lizard *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin) have been described by J.C. Daniel (THE BOOK OF INDIAN REPTILES, 1983). According to him it prefers insects but occasionally may feed on small birds, nestlings, frogs and other small animals. S.K. Sharma (*JBNHS 88(2):* 290-291) has recorded this species feeding on its own young ones also.

On 26 April 1991, at about 1200 hrs, I observed an adult common garden lizard on the trunk of an *Albizzia lebbeck* tree in the World Forestry Arboretum, Jaipur, which was swallowing a sub-adult Brook's gecko *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray. The head of the prey was in the mouth of the predator and the helpless gecko was wagging its tail. Its hind legs were also in motion in an effort to escape. Despite all the efforts made by gecko, within eight minutes the process of swallowing was completed.

The common garden lizard and Brook's gecko both live on trunks of trees in the Arboretum. Both are insectivorous and seem to be competitors for food, but the garden lizard is at an advantage as its feeding area is not limited to tree trunks, but also extends to the ground in the vicinity. By preying geckos, the common garden lizards reduces competition and also gets a substantial meal.

May 23, 1989 SATISH KUMAR SHARMA